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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 NEA-11
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05
OPIC-06 COME-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
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----------117747 162225Z /73
O 162200Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1393
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

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BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

PARIS FOR USOECD

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: EFIN, ECON, UN
SUBJECT: UN OVERVIEW COMMITTEE--PLENARY MEETINGS, MAY 10, MORNING AND AFTERNOON

REF: (A) USUN 1947 (B) USUN 1949

1. WHEN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (COW) MET WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 10, MANY DEVELOPED COUNTRY DELEGATIONS AND A FEW LDC DELEGATIONS WERE JOINED BY HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS FROM CAPITALS WHO HAD NOT ATTENDED PREVIOUS COW MEETINGS OF THE CURRENT SESSION. CHAIRMAN (JAZAIRY) OPENED MEETING BY PROPOSING AGENDA FOR REMAINING THREE DAYS; NAMELY ITEM 1 TO BE CONCLUDED IN WEDNESDAY MORNING SESSION, ITEM 2 WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON AND ALL DAY THURSDAY, AND
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ITEMS 3, 4 AND 5 FRIDAY MORNING, RESERVING FRIDAY AFTERNOON FOR FORMAL CONCLUDING STATEMENTS BY COUNTRIES AND GROUPS. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT A WORKING GROUP OF "VOLUNTARY EXPERTS" TO CONTINUE WORK ON ITEM 2 BEGIN MEETING SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH PLENARY MEETINGS, UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY WOULD NOT HAVE TO BE COMMITTED TO ANY FINAL POSITIONS. CHAIRMAN THEN INVITED COMMENTS ON ITEM 1. THERE FOLLOWED

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A NUMBER OF GENERAL INTERVENTIONS BY MOSTLY THE HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATES COVERING NUMEROUS POINTS RELATING TO ITEM 1 BUT ALSO TO ITEM 2 AND OCCASIONALLY ITEMS 3 AND 4.

2. DENMARK (OSTERGAARD) SPOKE ON BEHALF OF EC AND UNDER-SCORED EC'S VIEW OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF COW PROCEEDINGS. SHE DESCRIBED POINTS OF CONVERGENCE REACHED AT COW, COVERING DIAGNOSIS OF PRESENT PROBLEMS OF WORLD ECONOMY, INTERDEPENDENCE, AND NEED FOR GLOBAL COOPERATION. SHE THEN TOUCHED ON EFFORTS BY EC, INCLUDING PROGRESS ON ODA. AT ONE POINT SHE GENTLY JABBED COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, INDICATING DISAPPOINTMENT IN LACK OF PROPOSALS/COMMITMENTS FROM ITS MEMBERS REGARDING TRANSFER OF RESOURCES, WHERE IT NEEDED TO ASSUME A CORRESPONDING BURDEN TO MAKE ITS MARKETS AVAILABLE AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANS FOR TRANSFER OF RESOURCES. SHE CONCLUDED BY NOTING EFFORTS FOR LDCS IN MTNS, APPLAUDED CORREA'S EFFORTS WITH RESPECT TO IPC, AND POINTED OUT THE EQUAL PARTNERSHIP OF ALL PARTICIPANTS TO CREATE A NIEO.

3. TURKEY (KURUC) FOLLOWED WITH SIMILAR GENERAL STATEMENT, FOLLOWED BY NETHERLANDS (VAN GORKOM) WHO STRESSED COMMITMENTS DUTCH WHERE MAKING TO LDCS AND THEIR SUPPORT FOR NEW MEASURES, INCLUDING SWEDISH PROPOSAL FOR MASSIVE TRANSFERS AND NEED FOR MULTILATERAL INVESTMENT INSURANCE.
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VAN GORKOM NOTED INTENTION OF HIS MINISTER FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION TO ATTEND THE NEXT SESSION OF COW SINCE, DUE TO PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES, HE WAS UNABLE TO ATTEND THIS TIME.

4. CANADIAN INTERVENTION BY DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (JOHNSTONE) BLOOMED WITH RELUCTANT ENTHUSIASM. HE BEGAN BY NOTING THE DANGER OF PUSHING TOO QUICKLY WITH CHANGES OUT OF CONCERN WITH SLOWNESS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH, CITING MISTAKES OF THIS KIND IN THE EARLY 1970S. THEN, WHILE NOTING NEED TO PUSH SUSTAINABLE, NON-INFLATIONARY GROWTH AND DESIRE TO DO MORE, HE FELL BACK TO DESCRIPTION OF CANADA'S STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS INCLUDING UNEMPLOYMENT AND SLOW GROWTH, AND FACT THAT GOVERNMENT WILL IN FIRST INSTANCE RESPOND TO THESE DOMESTIC CONCERNS.

5. JAMAICA (MILLS) FOR 77 DESCRIBED COMMON THREADS OF DISCUSSIONS AT THE COW TO DATE, STRESSING THAT THE PRESENT ECONOMIC SYSTEM EXCLUDES LDCS FROM MAJOR PARTICIPA-TION AND THEREFORE THE NEED FOR DRASTIC CHANGES TO CREATE A NIEO, WHICH WILL BE OF BENEFIT TO LDCS AND DCS ALIKE,

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AS ALL DELEGATIONS HAVE RECOGNIZED GLOBAL ECONOMIC INTER-
DEPENDENCE. HE CALLED UPON COW TO TAKE DECISIONS NOW, TO
PUT NIEO ON COURSE.

6. OPENING AFTERNOON SESSION, CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED JUNE
MEETING BE CANCELLED AND SEPTEMBER MEETING LENGTHENED
TO TEN DAYS, SETPEMBER 5-15. HE ASKED FOR INFORMAL
COMMENTS OVER NEXT FEW DAYS RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER DATES
CONFLICT WITH TCDC MEETING IN BUENOS AIRES.

7. MILLS TOOK FLOOR AGAIN TO PRESS FOR CONCLUSIONS OF
THE COMMITTEE THAT WILL HAVE AN "IMPACT OF SOME WORTH."
IN THIS VEIN, HE PROPOSED A "FRIENDS OF THE CHAIRMAN"
GROUP THAT COULD EXTRACT POSITIVE AREAS OF CONVERGENCE
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AND IDENTIFY NARROW AREAS OF DIFFERENCE WITH RESPECT TO AGENDA ITEM 2. MEXICO, PAKISTAN AND SWEDEN AGREED WITH FRENCH AND UK INTERVENTIONS SUGGESTING A RETURN TO JAMAICAN POINT AFTER ITEM 1 DISCUSSION WAS CONCLUDED.

8. MAJOR SOVIET INTERVENTION THEN FOLLOWED, THEME OF WHICH WAS THAT LDC PROBLEMS ARISE FROM WESTERN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES' COLONIALIST AND NEO-COLONIALIST EXPLOITATION, AND THEREFORE THESE COUNTRIES SHOULD PROVIDE MUCH MORE THAN LDCS' REQUEST AS PARTIAL COMPENSATION FOR PAST WRONGDOING. DENMARK'S REMARKS ABOUT COMMUNIST COUNTRIES IN WEDNESDAY MORNING SPEECH WERE DEFLECTED WITH COMMENT THAT CRITICISM IS WRONGLY DIRECTED WHEN IT COMES FROM THE GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR LDCS' ILLS. THERE FOLLOWED A LENGTHY AND HARD TO FOLLOW DESCRIPTION OF SOCIALIST
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STATES' EFFORTS WITH LDCS. STATEMENT IN FULL WAS INTENDED TO BE CIRCULATED GENERALLY, BUT NO COPIES WERE IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE.

9. GENERAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED WITHOUT SURPRISING NOTE FROM FRANCE, SWITZERLAND, JAPAN, FRG AND AUSTRALIA.

10. WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION CONCLUDED WITH DECISION THAT "FRIENDS OF THE CHAIRMAN" OR CHAIRMAN'S CONTACT GROUP ON AGENDA ITEM 2 (TRANSFER OF RESOURCES), AS PROPOSED BY JAMAICA, BEGIN WORK THURSDAY WHILE PLENARY DISCUSSION CONTINUED ON ITEMS 3, 4, AND 5. US SOUGHT CLARIFICATION THAT CONTACT GROUP'S WORK BE BASED ON THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH HAD ACTUALLY TAKE PLACE (NOT ON PARTICULAR DRAFTS SUBMITTED BY GROUPS) AND SAID THIS WAS ONLY BASIS UPON WHICH USDEL WOULD BE PREPARED TO PARTICI-PATE. THIS WAS GENERALLY AGREED. MCHENRY

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